

MGUMC NEWS

A CHURCH FOR ALL SEASONS, ALL PEOPLE

April 2025

MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MGUMC CONTACTS

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 am
(10:00 service includes children's message)



Welcome

We invite you to join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Our mission is three-fold: To know Christ and make him known; To help people become—and grow as—followers of Christ; and To relieve suffering in our community and beyond through our members' ministries.

HOLY WEEK, EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Please note that MGUMC will have only the 10 a.m. service on Palm Sunday (April 13), and we will be observing Palm/Passion Sunday.

We will hold a Maundy Thursday service at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 17. On this night, Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will have a simple meal followed by a service with hand washing and Communion.

This year's Ecumenical Service will be 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 18, at MGUMC. This will be a service of Tenebrae. Based on a 12th century, late night/early morning service, a service of Tenebrae is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. Our Sunday School teachers are planning an activity for children during the service.

LENTEN STUDY

Please join us after the 10 a.m. service to continue exploration of how we can navigate together our polarized world. Each week, we will focus on one of the above themes and consider what it means, how it resonates in our lives and where it leads us. If you are interested in gathering to learn, study and forge connections, let the office know, so we can plan a light lunch.

MGUMC MIDWEEK MEDITATION (M3)

If you are looking for a spiritual touchpoint midweek, you are invited to subscribe to the M3 weekly email. This new initiative aims to foster connection, share encouragement and provide spiritual soul food as we live out our faith daily. The offerings will be brief and

include a variety of content, but hopefully something that meets you where you are. I am trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us in this endeavor. To subscribe, please email me at revandrehaldeman@gmail.com.

Upcoming MGUMC Events

**TUESDAY
APR 1**

Bible Study, 10 a.m.,
MGUMC Library.
The Book of Acts.



Vacation Bible School meeting, 6:30 p.m.,
Ebenezer Room

**WEDNESDAY
APR 2**

Lenten Service
7 p.m., Grace UCC
Sermon: No Going Back.
Ezra 3:10-13. Pastor: Jason Arnold



**THURSDAY
APR 3**

Zoom Prayer Group
Weekly online prayer group, 7 p.m.
Thursdays. Contact the church office
for more information and to join.

**SUNDAY
APR 6**

Lenten Study
11:15 a.m., Ebenezer Room
Last day to bring plastic eggs filled
with goodies for Easter Egg Hunt.

**TUESDAY
APR 8**

Bible Study, 10 a.m.,
MGUMC Library.
The Book of Acts.



**WEDNESDAY
APR 9**

Lenten Service
7 p.m., Zion UMC of Iona
Sermon: The Fake Out.
John 2:13-25. Pastor: Ruthann Seibert



**THURSDAY
APR 10**

Zoom Prayer Group
Weekly online prayer group, 7 p.m.
Thursdays. Contact the church office
for more information and to join.

**SATURDAY
APR 12**

Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.,
Mt. Gretna Chautauqua
Playground. Rain date
is Saturday, April 19.



**SUNDAY
APR 13**

Palm/Passion Sunday.
10 a.m. service only.

MGUMC Events are continued on page 2—>

MGUMC NEWS

MGUMC Events (continued from page 1)

WEDNESDAY
APR 16

Gathering Place

Members, friends and neighbors are invited for lunch and fellowship at noon in Fellowship Hall. Menu to be determined! Gathering Place is supported by freewill donations.



THURSDAY
APR 17

Maundy Thursday Service

6 p.m., MGUMC Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY
APR 18

Community Good Friday Service

7 p.m. at MGUMC. Sermon: Holding On When the Cross Feels Final.

Matthew 26: 26-27. Pastor: Lisa Flory

SUNDAY
APR 20

Easter services

7:00 a.m. (Tabernacle),
8:30 and 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)



THURSDAY
APR 24

Zoom Prayer Group

Weekly online prayer group, 7 p.m. Thursdays.
Contact the church office for more information

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A Journey of Healing: From Lamentation to Praise

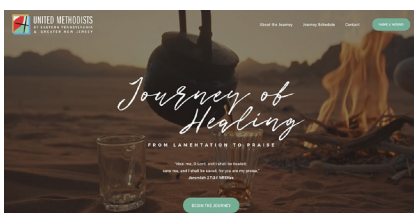
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

has issued a call for us all to engage in healing the divisions in our congregations, our conference, and our communities. This five-month conference-wide campaign will culminate in May at district conferences and at the Annual Conference.

In April, we focus on protecting the wounds as they heal. Engage with our **40 Days of Healing Prayer**, a devotional that is [subscribable via email](#) and offered as a PDF booklet featuring prayers written by clergy and laity across our conference. These prayers can be shared in worship services, meetings, and district gatherings. More information on the journey can be found at <https://www.epagnjhealing.com> or from Pastor Andrea.



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
The United Methodists of
Eastern Pennsylvania &
Greater New Jersey



<https://www.epagnjhealing.com>

"Heal me, O Lord,
and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall
be saved, for you are
my praise."

—Jeremiah 17:14 NRSVue

THANK YOU . . .

Food Bank Donations

MGUMC's March food bank donations totaled 106 pounds. Total year-to-date given is 304 pounds.

Thanks to all congregation members who contributed.

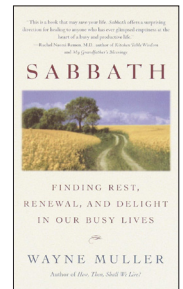


Update from Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Dan Dietzel, Chair

Many religions around the world celebrate Sabbath in different ways. In Wayne Muller's book, *Sabbath*, he uses Sabbath not only as an individual practice but a starting point to talk about the forgotten practice of rest. In our individual lives many of us are very busy checking boxes with family, work, and community, but when do we find time to rest?

This can be especially difficult for leaders of a faith community. In common Christian practice the Sabbath is Sunday. However, pastors do not find that to be a day of rest.



This article is to call attention to our forgotten need for rest in the midst of our daily lives, and also to be mindful of the Sabbath time that Pastor Andrea may need. We know that Pastor Andrea shepherds the Mt. Gretna flock differently than previous leaders and there is not necessarily a right or wrong way. However, we need to be proactive regarding her Sabbath time.

Pastor Andrea has agreed to be more intentional about communicating her schedule and using her out of office email. That being said, for the summer months, the SPRC committee has discussed that her Sabbath time will be Saturdays and Mondays. As we approach fall, we will further discuss her out of office time as it relates to her teaching schedule at Lebanon Valley College and her own doctoral studies at Vanderbilt University.

I ask each of you to look at your own daily lives and how we find rest. There are many spiritual practices that can not only provide rest but draw us into a closer relationship with Jesus and our church community. You are encouraged to find a practice that is comfortable for you and fits into your daily life or perhaps pulls you out of your daily routine and into a new routine.